

Marriage in Italy

What do I need to do to get married?

The 31st FW/JA Legal office will prepare the necessary paperwork needed for marriage in Italy. For assistance you will need to contact the following individual:

Linda Romanin

Phone: 632-4790; +39 0434-30-4790

EMAIL: linda.romanin.it@us.af.mil

If you are *not* getting married in the Province of Pordenone, you may have to go the U.S. Consulate General (there is an office in Venice) to obtain the necessary documents. Also, if your future spouse (U.S. citizen) is not affiliated with the Air Force (i.e. military, dependent or civilian component) - you will have to go to the U.S. Consulate General to obtain the necessary paperwork.

Marriage Outside the U.S.

Who May Perform the Marriage?

American diplomatic and consular officers are NOT permitted to perform marriages (Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations 52. 1). As a rule, marriages cannot be performed on the premises of an American embassy or consulate. Marriages abroad are usually performed by civil or religious officials in the foreign country.

Validity of Marriages Abroad

The validity of marriages abroad does not depend on the presence of an American diplomatic or consular officer, but upon adherence to the laws of the country where the marriage is performed. However, consular officers may authenticate foreign documents for a small fee.

In general, marriages which are legally performed and valid abroad, are also legally valid in the U.S. Inquiries regarding the validity of a marriage abroad should be directed to the attorney general of the state of legal residence of the parties.

Foreign Laws and Procedures

The embassy or tourist information bureau of the country in which the marriage is to be performed is the best source of information about marriage in that country. Some general information on marriage in a limited number of countries can be obtained from Overseas Citizens Services, Room 4811, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520 or by calling 202-647-5225. In addition, American embassies and consulates abroad frequently have information about marriage in the country in which they are located.

Residence Requirements

Marriages abroad are subject to the residency requirements of the country where the marriage is to be performed. There is often a lengthy waiting period.

Documentation and Authentication

Most countries require that a valid U.S. passport be presented. In addition, birth certificates, divorce decrees, and death certificates are frequently required. Some countries require that the documents presented to the marriage registrar first be authenticated in the United States by a consular official of that country. This process can be time consuming and expensive.

Parental Consent

The age of majority for marriage varies in each country. Persons under the age of 18 must generally present a written statement of consent executed by their parents before a notary public. Some countries require the parental consent statement to be authenticated by a consular official of that foreign country in the United States.

Affidavit of Eligibility to Marry

All civil law countries require proof of legal capacity to enter into a marriage contract in the form of certification by competent authority that no impediment exists to the marriage. No such

document exists in the United States. Unless the foreign authorities will allow such a statement to be executed before one of their consular officials in the U.S., it will be necessary for the parties to a prospective marriage abroad to execute an affidavit at the American embassy or consulate in the country in which the marriage will occur stating that they are free to marry. This is called an affidavit of eligibility to marry and the fee for the American consular officer's certification of the affidavit is \$55, subject to change. Some countries also require witnesses who will execute affidavits to the effect that the parties are free to marry.

Additional Requirements

Some countries require that documents presented to the marriage registrar be translated into the native language of that country. Many countries also require blood tests.

Loss of U.S. Nationality

In some countries, marriage to a national of that country will automatically make the spouse either a citizen of that country or eligible to become naturalized in that country expeditiously. The automatic acquisition of a second nationality will not affect U.S. citizenship. However, naturalization in a foreign country on one's own application or the application of a duly authorized agent may cause the loss of American citizenship. Persons planning to apply for a foreign nationality should contact an American embassy or consulate for information.

Marriage to an Alien

Information on obtaining a visa for a foreign spouse may be obtained from any office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Embassies and Consulates Abroad, or the Department of State Visa Office, Washington, DC 20520-0113. General information regarding visas may be obtained by calling the Visa Office at 202-663-1225.

POINT OF CONTACT
INFORMATION

Overseas Citizens Services
Room 4811,
Department of State, Washington, DC
20520
202-647-5225

U.S. Consular Venice
Tel. 041-5415944/2610054
E-mail: uscitizensvenice@state.gov

U.S. Consulate General Milano
Tel. 02-29035333

Aviano AB Legal Office (Linda Romanin)
DSN 632-4790
Comm. 0434-30-4790
E-mail: linda.romanin.it@us.af.mil

Immigration and Naturalization Service,
U.S. Embassies and Consulates Abroad, or
the
Department of State Visa Office,
Washington, DC 20520-0113

Visa Office
202-663-1225

For VISA application—you can pick up the
checklist at the Passport Office

Hours of Operation

Legal Assistance
By Appointment Only

Wills
Please call to complete Will worksheet BEFORE
you make an appointment! Stop by or call our
office for more information.

Italian Legal Assistance
By Appointment Only

Powers of Attorney/Notaries
Mon-Fri 0745 - 1630

You can complete power of attorneys
and read information at
<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>

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**Marriage of U.S.
Citizens While
Overseas**



**31ST FW LEGAL
OFFICE**

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